

# The Constitution of Tau Delta Phi Fraternity

## **PREAMBLE**

Tau Delta Phi Fraternity founded by Maxwell S. Goldman, Max Claye, Samuel Claye, Gustave Scheib, Milton J. Goodfriend, Maximillian Coyne, Alexander B. Seigal, Leo Epstein, and Benjamin Gray, at the College of the City of New York and New York University in the State of New York in July, 1910 and organized as a corporation under the laws of the State of New York in 1916 to promote the moral and social culture of its members, to establish confidence and friendly relations among the universities and colleges of the United States and Canada, to secure unity of action and sympathy in matter of common interest among them, and realizing that mutual assistance in the honorable labors and aspirations of life, devotion to the cultivation of the intellect, unsullied friendship, and unfaltering fidelity are object worth of the highest aim and purpose of associated effort, do hereby ratify, affirm and adopt the following as and for its constitution.

## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

*Section 1.* The name of this organization shall be "Tau Delta Phi Fraternity."

## **ARTICLE II - ORGANIZATION**

*Section 1.* All Chartered undergraduate chapters, chartered alumni associations, and approved affiliates shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Grand Chapter and by the Executive Council in the interim.

*Section 2.* The Fraternity shall consist of chapters already established and such as may be hereafter established in universities and colleges of good standing and repute, and alumni associations established or such as may be established hereafter, in accordance with the By-Laws of the Fraternity.

*Section 3.* Chapters and Alumni Associations shall be known and designated by such names as their charters prescribe. In Instances where the host institution or campus no longer exists or has merged, then the Executive Council or Grand Chapter can determine a new designation (added by Grand Chapter, July 11, 2004). All chapters and alumni associations in the Fraternity and members thereof in good standing shall have equal rights, provided that transfers from one chapter or alumni association to another may be regulated in the By-Laws of the Fraternity. Should a chapter or alumni association become inactive its designation and place shall remain intact, and the records and archives shall be transmitted to the Grand Scribe. No chapter whose charter is suspended or temporarily in the keeping of the Executive Council, or whose active membership consists of less than four persons, shall be placed upon the roll of the Convention or be permitted to vote thereat.

*Section 4.* Chapters are strictly prohibited from forming combinations as chapters, with chapters of other Fraternities, for the purpose of effecting elections to honors or offices in the colleges where they are located and in all respects are to encourage loyalty and obedience to the government and rules of such colleges.

*Section 5.* Each chapter shall have exclusive jurisdiction in the institution where it shall be located, over the conduct of all members of the Fraternity, whether they be members initiated by such chapter or not; it may make such regulations and adopt such order of business as it may deem expedient, provided they be not inconsistent with this Constitution and the By-Laws of the Fraternity.

*Section 6.* In any matter affecting his rights or standing in Tau Delta Phi, any member may appeal from the action of any chapter, or of any officer to the Executive Council and thence to the Grand Chapter in such matters as may be provided by law.

*Section 7.* No person shall be admitted to membership in the Fraternity until his Initiation Fee has been paid to the Grand Quaestor, and written Sanction procured from the Grand Scribe (Amended by the 2012 Grand Chapter).

*Section 8.* No person shall become a member of the Fraternity being a member of any similar association. In order to become a member of the Fraternity, he must be a member of some undergraduate university or college class, pursuing some post graduate course and the chapter to which his name is proposed must have expressed its confidence in his character and qualifications by electing him by such vote of its membership as is provided in the Constitution and By Laws of the Fraternity or the chapter.

*Section 9.*

- A) In extreme situations, The Fraternity shall allow a member to resign his membership in Tau Delta Phi subject to the approval of the Executive Council and the signing of a waiver promising never to reveal the trade secrets of Tau Delta Phi Fraternity.
- B) In extreme situations, the Executive Council shall have the power to expel a member upon good cause shown after a reasonable opportunity to be heard has been afforded and only with the unanimous approval of the Executive Council.

(Amended by the 2013 Grand Chapter)

*Section 10.* No member of the Fraternity shall be permitted to become a member of any similar college Fraternity.

### **ARTICLE III - THE GRAND CHAPTER**

*Section 1.* The supreme legislative authority of the Fraternity shall be vested in the Grand Chapter to consist of delegates elected by the several chapters and alumni chapters, one of which must be the Consul or Vice Consul (added by Grand Chapter, July 11, 2004), and the members of the Executive Council.

*Section 1A.* The voting rights of attendees of the Grand Chapter shall be as follows, an active undergraduate chapter shall receive two votes, a colony shall receive no votes, an alumni chapter shall receive one vote, each Executive Council member shall receive one vote, and all living Past Grand Consuls shall receive one vote (Amended by the 2016 Grand Chapter).

*Section 2.* The Grand Chapter shall convene at least once every two years in even numbered years at which a Grand Chapter meeting must take place, and the Grand Chapter shall meet in odd numbered years (with or without a Convention). The Grand Chapter shall therefore be required to meet every year. (Amended by the 2013 Grand Chapter)

*Section 3.* Special Grand Chapter meetings may be held upon the call of the Executive Council.

*Section 3A.* The Executive Council must call a Special meeting of the Grand Chapter upon the written demand (filed with the Grand Scribe) of one-third of the chapters and alumni chapters entitled to representation at a meeting of the Grand Chapter. The Special meeting must be within two months after the filing of such demand.

*Section 4.* In determining questions before the Grand Chapter, each delegate present shall be a free agent and his vote shall be counted accordingly.

*Section 5.* The Grand Chapter shall cause its records of proceedings to be published and sent to the chapters as soon as possible after its adjournment.

*Section 6.* The procedure and conduct of the Grand Chapter shall be prescribed in the By-Laws of the Fraternity.

*Section 7.* The Grand Chapter shall have power to impeach or remove any national officer by two-thirds vote of all delegates present.

#### **ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND NATIONAL OFFICERS**

*Section 1.* The National Officers of the Fraternity shall be a Grand Consul, Grand Vice Consul, Grand Scribe, Grand Quaestor, Grand Editor Historian and several (added by Grand Chapter, July 11, 2004) Members of the Board.

*Section 1(A).* The Positions of Grand Editor and Grand Historian will be separate positions on the Executive Council (2000 National Convention).

*Section 1(B).* The position of Grand Magister shall be added to the Executive Council (1998 National Convention).

*Section 1(C).* The position of Grand Councillor shall be added to the Executive Council (passed prior to 1952 Administrative Guide) and the Grand Councillor shall be a Past Grand Consul of Tau Delta Phi.  
(Amended by the 2013 Grand Chapter)

*Section 2.* The National Officers shall be elected by the Grand Chapter and shall hold office for a term of two years for Grand Officers and a term of one year for Members of the Board, or until their successors are elected. The Executive Council shall make rules and regulations to confirm the conduct of its business. The Grand Consul shall be elected in odd numbered years by the Grand Chapter and shall take office as Grand Consul at the end of the next immediate National Convention held in the following even numbered year. For the period he serves as Grand Consul Elect, he shall sit on the Executive Council with the powers and duties of a Member of the Board and the title of Grand Consul Elect.  
(Amended by the 2013 Grand Chapter)

*Section 3.* The Grand Consul shall be the Executive and presiding officer of the Fraternity, Executive Council and Grand Chapter; the Grand Vice Consul shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the formation of new chapters and alumni chapters, shall have administrative authority of policy matters as granted to him by the Grand Consul, and in the absence, inability, illness or incapacity of the Grand Consul, shall exercise his powers; the Grand Scribe shall have charge of the records and archives of the Fraternity and the Grand Chapter, and shall act as a secretary of the Executive Council; the Grand Quaestor shall be the financial officer of the Fraternity. He shall have charge of the general funds of the Fraternity, shall keep and maintain regular and accurate books of account, shall submit annual reports in writing to the Executive Council and supervise the finances of all the chapters; the Grand Editor Historian shall have charge of all publications issued by the Grand Chapter and the Executive Council.  
(Amended by the 2013 Grand Chapter)

*Section 4.* In addition to the duties assigned by the constitution, the National Officers shall perform such other duties as prescribed in the By-Laws of the Fraternity. They shall make reports in writing to the Grand Chapter of the affairs of the respective departments.

*Section 5.* The powers, business and property of the Fraternity shall be exercised, conducted, and controlled by the Executive Council subject to the provisions of this constitution. It shall elect persons to fill offices

made vacant until the meeting of the next Grand Chapter following. It shall hear and determine appeals from chapters and from the action of any officer, and in the case of appeal from its decision, shall transmit a record and report of the case to the next Grand Chapter meeting. It may at any time require a report from any officer or chapter in the Fraternity. It shall canvas and publish the votes of chapters upon amendments or the repeal of the Constitution. It shall have charge of and regulate the establishment of new chapters and alumni associations.

*Section 6.* The Executive Council shall have the power to promulgate, enact, amend, and repeal the By-Laws of the Fraternity, and shall publish such to the chapters within a reasonable amount of time. A vote of two-thirds of the chapters and alumni chapters entitled to representation at a meeting of the Grand Chapter may overturn such action by providing written evidence of such vote to the Grand Scribe.

*Section 7.* The Executive Council shall have the power to suspend any member of the Fraternity upon the showing of good cause. The Executive Council may either do so at the recommendation of a chapter or on its own motion.

*Section 8.* The Executive Council shall have power to remove, suspend, or impeach any member thereof for good cause shown.

*Section 9.* All powers not expressly reserved to the Grand Chapter, the chapters or alumni chapters shall be exercised by Executive Council.

*Section 10.* The Executive Council shall keep regular written minutes of its proceedings, which minutes shall be open to inspection upon written request of any chapter or alumni chapter or the Grand Chapter.

*Section 11.* The Executive Council shall number no more than 7 members and must include the following Grand Officers to serve their two-year terms, as stipulated in Article IV, Section 2 of this Constitution: Grand Consul, Grand Vice Consul, Grand Scribe, and Grand Quaestor. Additional Grand Officers and Members of the Board may be elected as needed within the purview of this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Fraternity.  
(Added by the 2016 Grand Chapter)

## **ARTICLE V - FINANCES**

*Section 1.* The Grand Chapter shall have power to raise money by levy of assessments upon the chapters and alumni chapters. The Executive Council shall have the power to assess and collect active member fees and alumni dues.

*Section 2.* The Executive Council shall have power to determine, fix the amount of, and collect a National fee to be paid to the Grand Quaestor before the initiation of a candidate for membership in the fraternity.

*Section 3.* The Executive Council shall have power to determine, fix the amount of, and collect a charter fee to be paid to the Grand Quaestor before the establishment of a new chapter or alumni association.

*Section 4.* No chapter or alumni chapter in arrears for any assessment, fee, or loan payable to the Executive Council or Grand Chapter shall be entitled to representation at the Grand Chapter unless such default shall be waived by the Executive Council.

*Section 5.* All assessments, initiation fees, and charter fees collected by the Executive Council shall be deposited in the General Fund.

*Section 6.* All checks or drafts on the General Fund shall be signed by the Grand Quaestor and countersigned by the Grand Consul. The Executive Council may designate such other officers as it may require to sign the said checks or drafts when the Grand Quaestor or Grand Consul is unavailable.

## **ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS**

*Section 1.* This Constitution may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at any Grand Chapter meeting provided, however, that if within three months after the publication of notice of such amendment or repealing act, a majority of the chapters and alumni chapters entitled to representation at the Grand Chapter, by written vote deposited with the Grand Scribe, evidence their disapproval of said amendment or repealing act, then it shall become void.

*Section 2.* Two-thirds of those entitled to vote at a meeting of the Grand Chapter may amend or repeal the Constitution or any part thereof at any time.

## **ARTICLE VII - INCORPORATION**

*Section 1.* The Fraternity shall be incorporated under the Not-for Profit corporation laws of the state of New York under the title "Tau Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc."

*Revised: September 1, 2013*